

1 CITY OF COOS BAY
2 PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF
3 August 28, 2014
4

5 **Members Present:** Chair, Christine Coles; Commissioners: Ariann Lyons; Beverly Meyers;
6 Bill Otton and Jennifer Stephens

7 **Members Absent:** Commissioners: Carmen Matthews; Patty Scott

8 **Staff Present:** Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator, Pam Patton

9 **Guests Present:** Dan McCutcheon, City Harbor Master; Kristi Kelty, founder of Friends of
10 Mingus Park (FOMP) along with member Mary Feutrier

11 **Location:** Meeting was held in Mingus Park at the Pavilion near the play area
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16 **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

17 Chair Christine Coles called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and asked for a motion to approve
18 the minutes of June 19, 2014.

19 **Motioned:** Jennifer Stephens motioned to approve as written

20 **Seconded:** Beverly Meyers

21 **Vote:** Aye, Unanimous. Minutes approved
22

23 Meeting of August 21, 2014 had to be rescheduled to August 28th due to no quorum
24

25 ***Citizen Input would be taken at this time if not on the agenda. Dan McCutcheon and Kristi***
26 ***Kelty's input would be taken in the order listed on the agenda.***
27

28 **NEW BUSINESS –**

29 Randy Dixon directed the commissioner's attention to the handout in each of their packets.
30 Pictures of fitness equipment were submitted by Don Hynes. He would like to build and donate
31 the pieces of fitness equipment for stop-stations to be placed in John Topits Park. Randy pointed
32 out that for municipalities, the building guidelines are quiet stringent. Consumer Products Safety
33 Commission, (CPSC) require equipment to be rated and certified. During the discussion, the
34 consensus of the commission was to decline at this time and asked that a letter be sent to Mr.
35 Hynes.

36 Boardwalk / City Docks – Boats that are paying to be moored at the docks have received damage
37 to the surface of their boats, as well as, their sails from sport fishermen/women who are
38 carelessly casting their lines into the boats. Harbor Master, Dan McCutcheon, presented a letter
39 to the commission and was here to represent not just him but the other boat owners to discuss
40 their concerns in trying to find the best solution for both the boat owner and fishermen. They
41 certainly didn't want to stop people from fishing from the bank. They would like them to be
42 respectful of private property and to fish responsibly. Dan also drew attention to that during the
43 course of salmon fishing, there is excessive littering and several of the fishermen are choosing to
44 bleed and clean their fish on or near the common walkway creating a potential health hazard to
45 dogs with salmon poisoning. Some of the boat owners are experiencing fishermen trespassing
46 onto their boats to retrieve tackle that had hung up. Many things were discussed in seeking an
47 amicable solution.
48
49

50 The commission examined many options i.e., building a pier further down from the dock;
51 moving the fence further south; restricting fishing to bobber or floating bait only with no casting
52 and perhaps, moving the area of fishing down approximately 100 feet south of the dock. It was
53 also suggested the use of a snag line be put into place that would prevent people from casting
54 near the boats. The commission concluded that signage would be the best solution for now. If
55 the signs do not deter the activity, then the commission would be recommending to council to
56 write an ordinance. It was asked how long it would take before seeing the signage. Randy said
57 it would take only one to two weeks.

58
59 **Motioned:** Ariann Lyons motioned to have the City do informational PSA's and have signage
60 posted along the Boardwalk:

- 61 1) Bobber-Float Bait fishing only-no casting within 100 feet of the dock.
- 62 2) Salmon Poisoning/ No Bleeding and Cleaning of fish.
- 63 3) Private Vessels.

64 **Seconded:** Jennifer Stephens

65 **Vote:** Aye's were unanimous and motion carried

66
67 Commissioner Vaughan wanted to discuss the speed of the boats traveling in the channel. The
68 boats were going too fast and creating wakes that are hitting the docks and moored boats causing
69 damage. Randy Dixon told him that this was not a city issue. It is open waterways and that
70 would come under either the Oregon Boating Regulations or the Coast Guard. Mike stated that
71 he would like to see the city take the initiative and felt it was a responsibility to inform the boater
72 through information signage. Randy again stated that the city could not regulate nor do signage
73 at the city's expense and that it is regulated by the Coast Guard or Sheriff's Department. If they
74 would like to post signage, they were welcomed to do so. Mike again stated that he would like to
75 see the city take some role in accommodating the issue. Randy will contact the Coast Guard and
76 Christine suggested that it be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion.

77
78 **** FYI After the Fact:** *"Basic rule for Slow-no wake. (OAR 250-010-0025)*

79 *Operators of boats must observe Slow-no wake, maximum 5 mph speed limit within 200' of a*
80 *boat ramp, marina or moorage with a capacity for six or more vessels; a floating home moorage*
81 *with six or more structures; or people working at water level. Operator may be liable for*
82 *damage caused by wake. This rule does not apply to commercial vessels or river navigation*
83 *when more speed is needed to ensure safe passage."*

84
85 Regarding the council meeting of August 5th, Christine opened the discussion on the ordinances
86 relevant to the authority and operational/procedural guidance given to the Parks Commission.
87 The guideline is there to be followed. Items of interest are to be addressed by the commission
88 prior to going to council. A letter was drafted to be presented to City Council addressing this
89 matter. Christine read the letter and the letter was to be signed by each member of the
90 commission that was present. Christine went on to announce that in completing the Parks Master
91 Plan, there will be several town hall meetings held updating the public on the Parks Master Plan
92 and giving opportunity for the community to give their input through a survey. Those meetings
93 will be held in Mingus Park at various times to accommodate the public's availability to access
94 the process. Randy also reminded everyone that when the Parks Master Plan was in the
95 development stage, we talked about all the assets and site amenities that make up the conceptual
96 plan for a park. With public's input through the surveys that were submitted and spoken
97 statements given during public meetings, the draft of the Parks Master Plan was written and
98 taken to the City Council. It was adopted and now, we must operate within those guidelines, and
99 because it is an adopted plan, and try to build upon with the Master Plan.

101 At this time Kristi Kelty, founder of FOMP, was asked to present her information. Kristi gave
102 their handout to everyone while thanking the commission and how much they appreciated seeing
103 the mesh grill that was installed over the drain to prevent the newly-hatched ducklings from
104 falling in and being washed out into the bay. They also thanked the city for the website link to
105 the Emergency Wildfowl Fund with Morgan Veterinary Clinic.
106

107 Kristi asked for a status or any information of where we were with grants. Kristi presented a
108 letter from FOMP to the commission that gave a brief history and their development. Also
109 included with the letter were revisions to their original proposal submitted over a year ago.

110 First revision was, if fishing is continued to be allowed, FOMP would like to see fishing
111 restricted to a designated area that wildlife would not be able to access. Possibly, fishing could
112 occur in the smaller pond above the bridge.

113 Second revision, FOMP wanted to give clarification to their concern about the proposed fishing
114 pier to be built at the Mingus Park Lake. Because the pier would be built in an existing habitat
115 that wildfowl use now along the northeast bank of the lake, FOMP is advocating that it be
116 situated either at the larger Empire Lake or perhaps at the Hollering Place. Another concern was
117 the pier could pose a safety hazard to young children as there is currently no formal oversight or
118 park ranger (or lifeguard) to keep watch over the many kids who visit the park each day. (**for
119 more detail, the actual handout will be attached to the minutes.)
120

121 Randy wanted to differentiate the development of the Parks Master Plan. There is a
122 comprehensive plan, which is the overall City Parks Master Plan, and there is the site specific
123 plan. There will be another master plan after taking in all the amenities and public input through
124 surveys and the commission will then make a recommendation to the council based on that input
125 and at what priority that will play, as obviously there is no city capital for the Parks Master Plan.
126 It (funding) is written into the plan as site-specific through grants and donations. Kristi expressed
127 that FOMP would love to be included as an interest group or part of the community forum.
128

129 Mary Feuterier, another attending representative of FOMP, asked about the town hall meetings
130 and where they will be held. Mary asked if the topic of fishing in Mingus Park would be brought
131 up then. It will all be included in the survey and the public will vote. It would then be tallied by
132 an outside group. There will be several meetings and the times will soon be determined.
133

134 Christine asked for a motion to take the letter to council.
135

136 **Motioned:** Ariann Lyons motioned to send the letter to council as written

137 **Seconded:** Bill Otton

138 **Vote:** Aye's were unanimous and motion carried. The letter was signed by each attending
139 commissioner.
140

141 **COMMISSIONERS CLOSING COMMENTS –** 142

143 Jennifer Stephens reminded the commission that the Parks Master Plan is our guiding document.
144 Keep reacquainting yourself and don't lose the vision.

145 Bill Otton thanked Randy for all his hard work and dedication.

146 Ariann Lyons suggested the city publish a PSA on a quarterly basis updating the status of the
147 plan.

148 Christine Coles commented that it was nice to see the park full with busy and happy people
149 enjoying the park with their families. She is very pleased to have this so close to home.

150 Mike Vaughan asked what type of fish is in Mingus Park Lake and what is the value of fishing
151 there? Are there invasive species; trout; catfish; salmon? ODF&W does stock the lake with
152 trout. He felt we have a duty to inform and this is an opportunity to use as a tool for education.
153

154 At this time, Commissioner Vaughan announced that he was submitting his resignation from the
155 Parks Commission as his time is limited and he would like to focus on the upcoming library
156 steering committee. He thanked the commission for having him all these years. Everyone
157 thanked him for his service and wished him the best.

158
159 **ADJOURNMENT**

160
161 **There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by**
162 **consensus of the Parks Commission, Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.**

163
164 Respectfully Submitted,

165
166 Pamela Patton,
167 Department of Public Works

168
169 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 18 DAY OF 09, 2014.**

170
171
172 
173 _____

Christine Coles, Chair

174 Attest: 
175 _____
176 Pamela Patton, Staff



In memory of *Lady*
Deceased 2013

"If the city wants wildlife they need to provide a safe environment for them.....swans are priceless, geese are priceless.....a park without swans and geese is a dead space."

Emily Ashworth, 2014

QUICK LIST/FOMP BULLET POINTS /PARKS COMMISSION MTG. 8/21/14

- Thank you to City for mesh grill over Mingus Lake drain and for website link to Emergency Wildfowl Fund
- Revised FOMP position on NO FISHING designation for Mingus Lake
- Clarification about fishing pier location at Mingus Lake
- Request for community information schedule on Parks Master Plan
- Status on Vaulted Vending feed dispensers with signage
- Input on signage content



Joey



Joey the Goose was rescued in 2013 after being abused by kids at Mingus Park because she was lame. She was rehabbed and adopted and now is doing well. Friends of Mingus Park considers Joey a symbol of triumph over abuse.....

Joey, June 2013



Joey, one year later

Friends of Mingus Park
Kristi Kelty
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Coos Bay, OR 97420
408-499-5156



Friends of Mingus Park

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August 21, 2014

Parks Commission of Coos Bay
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Dear Parks Commission Members,

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

Friends of Mingus Park (FOMP) is a community group of volunteers dedicated to the health and safety of the wildlife at Mingus Park. FOMP submitted a proposal along with a petition (over 100 signatures) a year ago that included 3 proposed solutions which addressed issues of abuse and health as these related to the wildlife. We proposed 1) Installation of waterfowl feed dispensers with signage educating park visitors about the wildlife and their needs, including proper humane treatment and feeding, 2) Installation of a mesh grill that would be applied to the drainage grill to prevent newly-hatched ducklings from being washed down into the drain, 3) Designate Mingus Park Lake as a NO FISHING lake.

FOMP RECONSIDERS ONE OF OUR PROPOSAL ITEMS:

We have been encouraged by Randy Dixon in that our proposal suggested items that were reasonable under the new 2014 Parks Master Plan. With respect to the "NO FISHING" request, FOMP is reconsidering this. Due to the close proximity of wildlife at the lake, originally FOMP took the position that the lake should be designated as "NO FISHING." Geese are

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particularly sensitive to metal poisoning, and fishing tackle (along with fishing line) are lethal to the birds. Birds are attracted to shiny objects, and

if a bird swallows metal they will die from the poisoning unless treated immediately.

"Lady" the swan was found floating in the lake shortly before Christmas, but she had been ill for a few months and unable to walk. She had been using her chest to scoot in and out of the water. It is possible that she was suffering from metal poisoning due to fishing gear.

We have seen birds with feet tangled in fishing line, that have been rescued --thankfully by our local Firemen. We have seen birds with fish hooks in their mouths.

Although FOMP is against fishing in Mingus Lake, FOMP does not want to see this NO FISHING controversy become a polarizing issue. FOMP is reconsidering this and is proposing that if fishing continues to be allowed, we would like to see a designated area for fishing that the wildlife (our community pets) would not be able to access. Possibly fishing could occur in the smaller pond above the bridge, if a means could be found to prevent the other wildlife from accessing that upper pond.

We are currently researching successful models of this structure, to determine feasible options for implementing this, which we will bring to the city and to the Parks Commission for consideration. (Londa Strong, Director of Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Department in Concord, NC) has expressed that she loves what FOMP is doing, and has put this research item on their listserv.)

FOMP HAS CONCERNS ABOUT A PROPOSED FISHING PIER AT MINGUS LAKE:

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FOMP is also very concerned that the proposed fishing pier at Mingus Lake would be built in an existing habitat that the wildfowl use now -- along the northeast bank of the lake. FOMP is advocating that it be situated either at the larger Empire Lake- (where there is less wildfowl density), or perhaps at the Hollering Place, where existing pylons are in place which may be usable.

FOMP is also concerned that the proposed pier at Mingus Lake could pose a safety hazard to young children -- as there is not currently any formal oversight or park ranger (or lifeguard) to keep watch over the many kids who visit the park each day. This leads to the question of liability insurance. Has the city considered the additional cost that we will incur to have a fishing pier at Mingus Lake?

FOMP SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR THE PARKS MASTER PLAN:

We support the process of providing community information sessions to elicit public input on the various proposed additions to the parks. In light of the fact that there was such a small turnout at the public information meeting where the proposed Mingus Lake pier was discussed, we would like to request that the schedule of public information meetings to address the Parks Master Plan be announced online and via posters and media outlets. We are looking forward to participating in the community information meetings that are being planned, to look at new components of the Parks Master Plan 2014, and how they relate to Mingus Park and the wildlife there.

Thank you for all of your support!
Friends of Mingus Park

PLEASE HELP US CARE FOR BIRDS AT MINGUS PARK!



Tuffy

“Thank you to Morgan
Veterinary Clinic for your
generosity!”



Joey

Morgan Veterinary Clinic has generously started a **Friends of Mingus Park (FOMP)** Savings Account so that our community pets at Mingus Park can be treated when they are found to be ill or injured.

Donations can be mailed to **“Morgan Veterinary Clinic, c/o FOMP”**
230 Market Ave., Coos Bay, OR 97420 Phone: 541-269-5846 or call
Kristi Kelty, FOMP, (408) 499-5156. *Thank you!!!!*

FOMP is a group of volunteers who work to keep the wildlife at Mingus Park safe and healthy.

Joey and Tuffy have been rescued and rehabbed in the last year~